

REMARKS

Claims 38-42, 65-71, 74-83, 85-111 are now in the case.

Applicants have added claims 95-111 to claim additional features.

Applicants appreciate and acknowledge the mention by the Examiner that the claim objections and 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections have been withdrawn.

Applicants have amended independent claim 38 to include the features of a substrate consisting essentially of a single layer of nonwoven material having a first outward surface and a second outward surface.

Applicants have amended independent claim 90 to include the features of a substrate comprising a non-apertured layer of nonwoven material having a first outward surface and a second outward surface, wherein at least one of said outward surfaces has a macroscopic three dimensional texture including a non-random macroscopic pattern including discrete raised regions.

Each of these amendments is supported by the specification, claims and drawings as filed. (see page 15, lines 20-24, page 22, lines 20-25, page 37, lines 18-19, page 40 line 7-37, page 41, lines 9-36, page 42, lines 19-22 and also Fig 1. and claims 7 and 8 of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/729,626, filed November 30, 2000 by Wong et al., which is incorporated by reference in the present application and published under publication No. US 2001/0029966A1).

Rejections under 35. U.S.C. 103

Claims 38-42, 65-71, 74-83 and 85-94 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being patentable over Lerner et al. '292 in view of Ngai '627 for reasons of record at paragraph 4 of the office action dated October 1, 2004.

Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections, to the extent they may apply to Claims 38 and 90 as now amended, as well as, newly added claim 103.

In order to preserve the record for any prospective appeal, it is noted that previous arguments and citations of relevant case law continue to apply to Claims 38 and 90 as now

amended, as well as, newly added claim 103. For brevity, not all of such matter will be exhaustively repeated herein.

Applicants submit that claim 38 has been amended and now includes the features of a substrate consisting essentially of a single layer of nonwoven material having a first outward surface and a second outward surface.

As best understood by Applicants, Ngai discloses that “[t]he method of the invention generally comprises the steps of forming a first non-woven web ... An additional step comprises forming a second non-woven web ... A final step comprises laminating the first and second webs together to form the non-woven composite of the invention.” (See Col 3, lines 17-26) and that “[a] preferred embodiment of the fabric of the invention comprises three laminated nonwoven layers; with first and third hydroentangled non-woven layers sandwiched about a second layer.” (See Col 3, lines 1-4)

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Lerner et al. nor Ngai teach or a cleaning sheet comprising a macroscopically three-dimensional substrate consisting essentially of a single layer of nonwoven material.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of independent claim 38 and dependent claims 39-42, 65-76, and newly added claims 95-98 are therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended independent claim 90 to include the features of a substrate comprising a non-apertured layer of nonwoven material having a first outward surface and a second outward surface, wherein at least one of said outward surfaces has a macroscopic three dimensional texture including a non-random macroscopic pattern including discrete raised regions.

As best understood by Applicants, Ngai discloses that “[f]igs. 2A and 2B are microphotographs taken at 50 times resolution of the front and back, respectively, of a structured web 14 or 30 made using fibers 4 or 22, forming belts 10 or 26, and jets 12 or 28 as have been herein described. Pronounced apertures are clearly visible in Fig. 2A, as are less pronounced but clearly visible, apertures in Figs. 2B.” (Emphasis added, see Col 4, lines 60-66)

Ngai also discloses that “[a]s is generally known, during hydroentanglement on an apertured support, a web tends to develop more pronounced apertures on the support side as the opposite upward facing side is subject to more severe entanglement. For the purpose of the

present invention, it is advantageous to have the more apertured web surface outward facing on the final laminate fabric for greater wiping efficiency. (Emphasis added, see Col 5, lines 66-67 and Col 6, lines 1-5)

In addition, Lerner et al. disclose that "it should be understood that voids 13 are small spaces between fibers, whereas apertures 12 are regularly spaced, easily visible openings formed in the cloth." (Emphasis added, see Col 4, lines 66-67 and Col 6, lines 1-2)

Applicants remind the Examiner that "[a]s used herein, the term "non-apertured" specifically means that the sheets of the present invention have no voids in the working surface, through the body of the sheet to the back face, larger than the randomly formed spaces between the fibers of the structure formed during the entangling process." (See paragraph [0029] of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/729,626, filed November 30, 2000 by Wong et al., which is incorporated by reference in the present application and published under publication No. US 2001/0029966A1)

Consequently, it is Applicants' position that neither Lerner et al. nor Ngai teach or suggest a cleaning sheet comprising a substrate comprising a non-apertured layer of nonwoven material having a first outward surface and a second outward surface, wherein at least one of said outward surfaces has a macroscopic three dimensional texture including a non-random macroscopic pattern including discrete raised regions.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of independent claim 90 and dependent claims 91-94, and newly added claims 99-102 are therefore respectfully requested.

For the sake of expediting prosecution, Applicants submit that with regard to newly added independent claim 103 and dependent claims 104-111, neither lerner et al. nor Ngai teach or suggest a cleaning sheet having a working face comprising a polymeric additive and having at least a first zone and a second zone, wherein the level of polymeric additive of said first zone is greater than the level of polymeric additive of said second zone.

As best understood by Applicants, Lerner et al. disclose that "[t]he tackifier, adhesive and slip agent form a continuous coating on the fibers of the cloth." (Emphasis added, see abstract)

Lerner et al. also disclose that "rather than being applied just to the surface of the cloth, the adhesive and tackifier are impregnated throughout the cloth. The entangled web, while it is

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still wet, is thoroughly impregnated with the pressure-sensitive adhesive and tackifier to create the unique cleaning cloth schematically illustrated in Figs. 1-3)" (Emphasis added, see Col 3, lines 7-9 and Col 5, lines 67-68 and Col 6, lines 1-2)

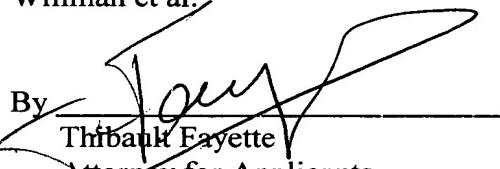
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

It is submitted that all the claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action on all claims is therefore requested.

If the next action is other than to allow the claims, the favor of a telephonic interview is requested with the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,
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